REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 30 and 32-34 have been canceled. Claims 5-29, 31, 35 and 37-53 are active in the case. Claims 5-8, 11-15, 22-27, 31, 42, 43 and 47-49 stand withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested

The present invention relates to compounds that inhibit the activity of transcription factor AP-1.

Claim Amendments

Claims 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 20 and 28 have been amended by limiting the value of subscript n which defines the scope of the $-(CH_2)-$ radical of component Z to 0 and 2. Thus, the scope of each of these claims has been narrowed, while the count of the active claims has remained the same. Accordingly, the amendments made to these claims do not raise new issues in the case. Further, a minor non-substantive amendment has been made to Claim 9. Entry of the amendment into the record is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection, 35 USC 112

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 30 and 32-34 on non-reference grounds is obviated by the cancellation of the claims from the case. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1-4, 9, 10, 16-21, 28-30, 32-35, 37-41, 44-46 and 50-53 stand rejected based on 35 USC 103 as obvious over Agback et al, EP 0 150 166. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Although the Agback et al reference discloses benzenoid compounds that have a gross structure somewhat similar to the present compounds of active claims 9, 10, 16-21, 28, 29, 35 and 37-53 in that they feature two benzene rings linked together by an A group, in fact, none of the compound embodiments are within the scope of the presently claimed compound embodiments of the stated active claims. The closest the generically described compound of the reference approaches the presently claimed compound is only when group A of the reference is carbonyl and in view of the particular free carboxylic acid or alkoxycarbonyl containing group at the meta position between the hydroxyl group and the OH group of the right-side benzene ring. The presently claimed compound embodiments avoid the reference, when X^1 is carbonyl and when W is $-Z-COOR^2$, wherein Z is $-(CH_2)_n-$, by limiting the value of n to 0 and 2. (In the case of Claims 51-53, the claimed compound embodiments are limited such that when R^1 is hydroxyl, the hydroxyl group must be protected, thereby avoiding the claimed compound of the reference.) Moreover, in view of the distinction between the claimed compound of the present invention and the compound of the reference, the fact that the reference teaches an entirely different and quite specific use of the compound as an inhibitor of 15-hydroxy-prostaglandin dehydrogenase versus the use of the presently claimed compound embodiments as an inhibitor of the transcription factor AP-1, one of skill in the art, in considering the Agback et al reference, would in no way be led to modify the compound of the reference so that it would function as an inhibitor in an entirely different biological context as a transcription factor AP-1 inhibitor. Accordingly, the obviousness ground of rejection is believed overcome and withdrawal of the prior art rejection is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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